

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

WD, CW & DW (Estt.) Dept – Smt.K.Rajeswari Asst.Project Officer (Retd.) – shortage of stocks (Soya salad oil, Bags of Corn, Soya blend powder) found in the project of Kamalapuram, Kadapa district while Smt.K.Rajeswari working as CDPO, Kamalapuram - Recovery of interest on Government dues in accordance with G.O.Ms.No.33, Finance (TFR.I) Department Dt:09/02/2006 – Orders – Issued.

**WOMEN DEVELOPMENT, CHILD WELFARE & DISABLED WELFARE
(ESTT.) DEPARTMENT**

G.O.Rt.No. 64

Dated:17-02-2010.

Read the following:-

1. From the Commrr, WD & CW, Hyd Lr.No.6913/D2/2006, dt.16.12.09.
2. Govt.Memo. 5251/Estt-A2/2007-14, dt.29.12.2009.
3. From the Commrr, WD & CW, Hyd Lr.No.6913/D2/2006, dt.08.01.10.
4. Govt.Memo. 5251/Estt-A2/2007-16, dt.16.01.2010.
5. From the Commrr, WD & CW, Hyd Lr.No.6913/D2/2006, dt.19.01.10.
6. Govt.Memo. 5251/Estt-A2/2007-17, dt.20.01.2010.

ORDER:-

In the references 1st, 3rd & 5th read above, the Commissioner, Women Development & Child Welfare, Hyderabad has reported that shortage of stocks (Soya salad oil, Bags of Corn, Soya blend powder) were identified in the month of July, 1995 in the project of Kamalapuram, Kadapa district in which Smt.K.Rajeswari working as CDPO, Kamalapuram is responsible for shortages of Rs.80,316/-. Further she reported that a circular memo has issued to Smt.K.Rajeswari duly intimating the details of shortages in quantity and amount vide Circular Memo No.8449/J3/95-1, dt.18/07/1995 and an amount of Rs.65,910/- was recovered from DCRG on 04/08/2009 and an amount of Rs.15,206/- on 05/08/2009 by STO, Hindupur. The Commissioner, Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Hyderabad has therefore requested to issue necessary orders to recover an amount of Rs.1,34,931/- towards interest on amount due for the shortage of stocks, from Smt.K.Rajeswari Asst. Project Officer (Retd.) Mahaboobnagar.

2. The Government Vide G.O.Ms.No.33, Dt:09-02-2006 of Finance (TFR.I) Department has passed orders that, recovery of the misappropriated amount / loss caused shall be at bank rate as fixed by RBI+2%.

3. After careful of the examination of the matter Govt., has provisionally decided to recover an amount of Rs.1,34,931/- (Rupees One lakh thirty four thousand nine hundred and thirty one only) towards interest on amount due for the shortage of stocks from Smt. K.Rajeswari Asst.Project Officer (Retd.) in accordance with Article 300 of A.P. Financial Code Volume-I from her pension for the shortage of stocks in CARE Claims and issued show cause notice to submit representation. The representation has been received and examined in detail and observed as follows:-

- a) The contention of the retired officer in her reply dt:01-02-2010, that the Director vide her letter dt:06-07-2003, has proposed to Govt. to drop further action in the matter in the matter is not correct. The Director's report merely based on the remarks of the enquiry officer.

- b) Certain shortages of CARE food commodities have been found in the project of Kamalapuram Kadapa district during the period of Smt. K Rajeswari for Rs.80316/-in different spells.
- c) In the CARE claim review panel meeting held on 07/04/95 it has been decided to recover the amounts from the persons responsible.
- d) The concerned CDPOs including the retired officer, were directed to recover the amount from the persons responsible and to remit the amounts to Govt., by way of challan under receipt of Head of account. Many of officers refunded the amounts. The retired officer has however chosen to ignore the same and she has not refunded till her retirement
- e) The retired officer ought to have remitted the amount Rs.80,316/- as per Cir.Memo.No.8449/J3//95-1, dt.18/07/1995 well before retirement as was done by others.
- f) The office of the Commrr, WD & CW, Hyd was compelled to recover the said amount through DCRG of Smt K. Rajeswari, Asst. Project Officer (Retd.) from her retirement benefits. It is not correct to say that it is not done by competent authority.
- g) The said recovery due to Govt. to a tune of Rs.80,316/- was recovered vide challan and Demand Draft dated:04 and 05 of August 2009 by S.T.O. of Hindupur. Since then the Retired Officer has not objected to this through any representation either to Govt. or to Commissioner. This is because she very well knew that it is pending since 1995 and that such amounts were being recovered in all such cases, as was the established procedure.
- h) As seen from the records including the register to monitor CARE claim recoveries maintained by Commr, WD & CW, the procedure followed has Commissioner, Women Development & Child Welfare Department been to recover the value of the shortage/loss of the food commodities from the officers/staff responsible for the same by communicating a memo to the head of the office concerned directing them to recover the amount and credit through DD/Challan. This procedure has been followed independent of or irrespective of departmental disciplinary proceedings initiated if any against them. The action accordingly initiated against the retired officer is known to her and she has never made any objection to the same. In this regard the Commissioner, Women Development & Child Welfare Department is requested to issue final show cause to all the remaining incumbents and the possibility of disciplinary action /prosecution which is the proper course of action in such matters.
- i) The retired officer has also clearly admitted in her representation dated:01-02-2010, that she was paid an amount of Rs.1,27,744.00/- only towards gratuity as against 208050.00/- as per the authorization issued by AG dated:14-05-2009. She has not chosen to make any representation on the said recovery till issue of the show cause memo dated:20-01-2010, which therefore, substantiates what is stated supra.
- j) The prayer in O.A. No. 4827 of 2008 filed by the retired officer is to set aside the punishment imposed in the Disciplinary case by the Director. This O.A. has no bearing on the said CARE claim recovery or interest laid upon that. The Govt. is bound by rules to recover the loss caused by any Govt. employee.
- k) In view of the above, her contention that it is an arbitrary action and contrary to law is not correct. As seen from the records such loss has been make good by 26 other similarly placed officers/staff who have voluntarily paid back the amounts. Unlike, many others there were several charges against the retired officer including grave charges of tampering of records, misappropriation etc, which could not be proved beyond doubt by Enquiry Officer due to lack of certain records which were traced out and proved subsequently. Infact it has been felt it's a fit case for dismissal but sheer lapse of time made it look less serious. Thus final orders have been passed imposing reduction of pay in three stages.

4. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme started in the year 1975 in Andhra Pradesh, aims at the comprehensive development of the child, right from prenatal period through infancy to childhood, by a series of coordinated activities of Nutrition, Health and Educational (NHE) services. Care of women and children and Adolescent Girls occupies the center stage of the programme. To achieve the laudable objectives, apart from massive funding for the supplementary nutrition, the programme provides for elaborate personnel such as AWWs at village level presently numbering about 84000. To monitor and guide them about 1837 supervisors are sanctioned for cluster of villages and 385 CDPO for every 3 to 4 Mandals. In spite of this programme being under implementation since 1975 and gradually up scaled to achieve universalization with annual budget outlay of over Rs.1000 crores, the dismal progress achieved in addressing malnutrition, Neonatal deaths, MMR, low birth weight and outcomes thereof including increasing levels of anemia stunted growth etc, continue to be areas of serious concern. The CDPOs are responsible functionaries to impact the implementation of programmes in over 100 villages effecting thousands of families. Their conduct has a telling effect on the morale and working of the Supervisors and Angawadi Workers. Therefore, any irregularity on the part of such supervisory officers should be viewed very seriously entailing stringent disciplinary action and prosecution. The Commissioner, Women Development & Child Welfare Department should introduce effective performance monitoring systems and ensure appropriate measures of rewards and punishments. The records of overall performance appraisal including such cases of CARE claim reviews other losses when detected etc, ought to be taken into consideration while effecting promotions.

5. In deference to the interim order of the Hon'ble High Court to pay 9% interest on the pensionary benefits an amount of Rs.59,939/- would be payable to Smt.K.Rajeswari Asst. Project Officer (Retd.). Therefore, deducting this amount the balance amount recoverable based on CARE claim review panel would be only Rs.74,992/-.

6. The Commissioner, Women Development & Child Welfare Department, Hyderabad is requested to take action accordingly and to send her compliance report to the Govt., in the matter.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

**M.CHAYA RATAN,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT**

To
Smt.K.Rajeswari Asst.Project Officer (Retd.)
through the Commissioner, Women Development & Child Welfare, Hyderabad
The AGAP, Hyderabad
The Commissioner, Women Development & Child Welfare, Hyderabad
SF/SC

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER